

526 Rec'd PCT/PTC 17 OCT 2000

The attached PTO 1449 form lists related art references for the above identified application, including those identified in the International Search Report, copy of which is enclosed herewith.

EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

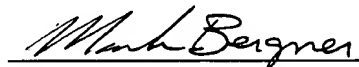
References AJ-AM & AQ were cited in the International Search Report. References AJ and AK were identified as being in category Y, and references AL, AM, and AQ were identified as being in category A. Applicants note that the International Examination Report indicates that all of the claims, as amended during the international prosecution of the application, meet the three standards of patentability.

References AN and AO represent background art in the field. An English language abstract has been provided for these, and full translations for any of the foreign references will be produced for the Examiner upon request.

The filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the present Information Disclosure Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The above citation of prior art is not a representation that such art constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of all pertinent prior art, nor that it necessarily includes the closest or most relevant art. The aforementioned citation comprises a voluntary citation of prior art of which applicant and his attorney are presently aware and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the Examiner's own search.

Submitted by,

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